



# NEWS RELEASE

## Arizona House of Representatives

Speaker of the House Rusty Bowers (R-25)

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## Speaker Bowers Creates Ad Hoc Study Committee on Earned Release Credits for Prisoners

**STATE CAPITOL, PHOENIX** – House Speaker Rusty Bowers (R-25) today announced the creation of an ad hoc study committee on the earned release credit system for prisoners and named Representative Walter Blackman (R-6) as its chair.

The committee will study the credit system Arizona uses to allow prisoners the opportunity to earn early release and whether that system should be reformed to permit prisoners to earn additional credits.

Representative Ben Toma (R-22) will serve as vice chair of the committee, and Representative Kirsten Engel (D-10) will serve as ranking member. Speaker Bowers also appointed Representatives Shawwna Bolick (R-20), Tony Rivero (R-21), Bret Roberts (R-11), Reginald Bolding (D-27), Domingo DeGrazia (D-10), and Diego Rodriguez (D-27) to serve on the study committee.

**“As Arizona continues to reform our criminal justice system, this ad hoc study committee will allow legislators to gather input and develop recommendations on reforming the earned release credit system ahead of next year’s session,”** said Speaker Bowers. **“Despite being his first session, Representative Blackman has already distinguished himself as a leader on criminal justice reform issues, and I look forward to reviewing the committee’s work.”**

**“My colleagues and I can’t wait to get started,”** said Representative Blackman. **“This study committee will allow all stakeholders to provide input on the earned release credit system and how we can improve it, as well as examining the effectiveness of programs currently available to prisoners to earn credits toward early release. I expect this committee to lay the groundwork for genuine progress on this issue next year.”**

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